

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define the criteria and process for approval of overhead school flashers.

Policy

To increase motorist awareness and to promote safety at school zones on multi-lane state highways, the Department will consider the installation of overhead school flashers at reduced speed school zones when an engineering study indicates that the criteria for such installations are met. Overhead flashers shall not be installed at reduced speed school zones where the school crossing is at a signalized intersection. At other locations, the following criteria shall be met:

- (a) The state road adjacent to the school zone shall be a multi-lane highway, i.e., two or more approach lanes.
- (b) The reduced speed school zone shall be on a designated school route plan.
- (c) The following system of points shall be applied:

POSTED SPEED LIMIT

30 mph or 35 mph 1 point

40 mph or 45 mph 2 points

50 mph or 55 mph 3 points

NUMBER OF APPROACH LANES

2 lanes 1 point

3 lanes 2 points

over 3 lanes 3 points

The criteria will be met when any combination of the above parameters totals 3 or more points or when visibility of a side mounted school flashing sign is obscured due to fixed objects, parked vehicles, vegetation, or other features that cannot be removed in a practical manner.

Procedures

Installation of Overhead School Flashers

UDOT 06C-72.1

Responsibility: Local agencies

Actions

1. Request that the Department, through the appropriate Region/District Office, analyze the need for an overhead school flasher at a specified location.

Responsibility: Region/District Office

2. Shall review request to determine if the criteria explained in this policy are met. If criteria is met, shall submit data to the Traffic and Safety Division.

Responsibility: Traffic and Safety Division

3. Shall establish priorities and include qualifying locations in future programs as funding becomes available.
4. Shall initiate agreements on each location identifying the following:
 - (a) Design and installation shall be the responsibility of the Division of Traffic and Safety.
 - (b) The Department shall be responsible for maintaining the overhead school flashers.
 - (c) All power and operating costs shall be the responsibility of the local agency.
 - (d) Crossing guards shall be furnished and trained by the local agency as required by the Manual and Specifications on School Crossing Zones.
 - (e) The Department shall contribute not more than 1/2 of the total cost of design and construction. The balance of the funding will come from local agencies, school districts, or private sources. The Department will not contribute to the cost of an overhead school flasher for new schools.